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West Allis Radio Amateur Club

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MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS

March Club meeting

March 13, 2012

Program

Wisconsin QSO party wrap-up and Membership Recruitment

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WARAC 2-meter net

Mar. 20 & Apr. 3, 2011 7:00pm

MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset

127.3 Hz CTCSS

Club Happenings

Reminder

The snack kitty provides funds for our after meeting refreshments.

Help us keep the fund going for all our enjoyment!

March 11, 2012 from 1800Z to 0100Z
March 12
(1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT)
The first day of Daylight Savings Time!



NEW club jackets and hats!

Go to club Web site and click on
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block

For more info



The President's Shack March 2012

When you read this it will be just a few days until our Wisconsin QSO Party - Sunday, March 11! The QSO party is one of our club's major activities and it's visible to the entire world. It's truly an honor and a privilege that WARAC has been able to sponsor this contest for over 30 years.

Everything you need to know about the 2012 edition of our Party is on our website at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm> . Included on the website are postings of route information from mobiles that will be operating in the contest. Here's a direct link to the mobile postings: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/ch-list.htm> . And I want to express my gratitude to those dedicated mobile operators and drivers that donate their time, energy and gasoline to help make WIQP the success that it is.

So let's all get on the air Sunday! Again, you don't need to be a contester. Just get on the air and make some QSO's. A lot of people will be looking for Wisconsin stations, so it will be easy to make contacts. If you have station problems, computer issues or anything else you need help with to get on the air, please call on me or other club members to give you a hand.

At our upcoming club meeting, there will be plenty of discussion about WIQP, so please be there to share your thoughts and experiences.

In addition to talking about WIQP, this meeting will also have an open discussion about how to increase activity and membership in our club. What fun activities would you like to see? Social activities? On-the-air activities? What

would make our club more attractive to new hams? Or old-time hams? Bring your ideas and we'll do some brainstorming!

An opportunity to promote our club is AES Superfest on March 30 and 31. As in past years, we'll have a PR table at Superfest and will need help manning it. Here's a chance to promote our club! The Superfest flyer is available at <http://www.aesham.com/superfest/SUPERFEST-2012.pdf> .

See you at the meeting!
- Tom, K9BTQ

From the Editor

It's time for our annual QSO party this Sunday March 11. Hope you all get a chance to it. There isn't much to report this month. I have been busy just not with Ham radio! I played with my FT-817 while winter camping. I didn't make any SSB contacts, but I was able to hear others. Will have to get my nerve up and start sending on CW, which gives a more readable signal on low power. I got my machine code copying to a usable speed. But I haven't sent any code for a long time.

Copying code: I found that a good way to keep me interested is to use Howard AC4FS copy of The Princess of Mars in Morse code found at http://www.hotpeppersoftware.com/downloads/pom_downloads.html Howard starts it out at 12 wpm with each letter at 25 wpm. By the last chapters you're up to 25 wpm. The text files are included so you can check your work. The first time I went through I never got much at 25 wpm but when I started over I did real well at 12wpm. The only problem I found with it is that there are not many numbers in it so you don't get much practice with numbers. The nice thing is each chunk is around 15 to 20 minutes.

Well that's it for this month. If anyone wants to build their code speed by getting on the air and just Rag chewing a few times a week let me know. Maybe we can come up with a schedule and get our speed up. It seems the best way to do that is to practice regularly.

Frank KA9FZR

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2012

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 15 with 1 visitor.

Program

The evening's program was Wisconsin QSO Party by Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR. Lynn noted that there are practice opportunities for contesting prior to the Wisconsin party. Everyone is encouraged to get on the air and participate in the event. Lynn stressed that it is a casual party and the main goal is to have fun.

The N3FJP program has an updated version 1.8 for the Wisconsin QSO Party. The changes are for better presentation on large displays and better handling of where logs are saved, primarily to address difficulties encountered by Windows Vista and 7 users.

Anyone that needs help getting on the air for the WIQP, please reach out.

A narrated slide presentation on Longpath Propagation on 10/12/15 meters was viewed.

Business

Motion was made and accepted to approve the January meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

The WARAC scholarship deadline was February 1, 2012. 25 applications were received, much improved over last year.

Announcements

The MRAC and MAARS Swapfest is Saturday, February 18. WARAC has a table at the event.

The South Milwaukee ARC has their auction on March 7 at 6 pm.

The Eau Claire Equipment auction is taking place on March 10.

The Jefferson Hamfest takes place on March 18

Motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

WARAC Board Meeting

February 28, 2012

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ, Dave Schank, KA9WXN.

2012 Budget

The board is awaiting interest information on one CD. A second CD has come due and was moved to Tri-City bank. The scholarship CD came due and was deposited in the scholarship account for now. Further discussion by the board will take place based on additional investment information.

Club Operations Manual

The Board members will meet at St. Mary's, Hales Corners, on March 3, to author sections of the WARAC Operations Manual.

Programs

March: Wisconsin QSO party wrap-up and Membership Recruitment.

April: Arduino Interfaces.

May: N1MM Contest Logging Software.

June: Field Day

Other Items

WARAC will have a club table at AES Superfest on March 31. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and take a turn at promoting the club. The focus will be on the club's activities, Wisconsin QSO Party, club meetings, Swapfest.

A club picnic is being planned for this summer. The Board is currently investigating sites. More information will be available in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

The Meaning of the Wouff-Hong

"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, page 11

Hellooo Radioooo!
My Wouff-Hong -KG2IC



I checked my backpack once again; just to be sure it was still there. It was, and its finish though now dull, still bespoke of a proud past. Of my radio purchases over the past 5 years, this simple item, purchased for less than one would spend on a lunch, had eclipsed them all. Let me explain.

On August 14, 1999 Bill K2LNU and I attended the moving sale of our friend, Fred Hammond VE3HC in Guelph, Ontario. I had first met Fred 4 years ago, when I was still quite new to the hobby. Fred, licensed since 1929, had established and maintained the outstanding Hammond Museum of Radio in his hometown of Guelph. Bill and I, along with many others, had become frequent visitors to his museum. His warm "V.. E.. 3.. H-Henry..C-Charlie" had greeted me several times on 75 meter AM as a return to my call of "CQ". However, in 1998 Fred sadly suffered a stroke, and although recovering, has been absent from the air.

At the sale, much of the gear was quickly snapped up, but a garage full of cardboard boxes containing radio parts was left largely untouched. You know the type of the boxes I am speaking about, the kind found under the tables at many a hamfest, covered with alternate layers of dust and grime, so often overlooked by those in quest of more "glamorous" finds. I have always found such boxes truly the proverbial diamonds in the rough, time capsules of radios rich legacy. Needless to say, I was soon busy rooting around in the parts boxes in the garage, boxes that had caught the attention of only a few other amateurs.

I saw a nearby ham pickup, examine curiously and then return to the box an odd shaped metal object. The size and shape certainly looked familiar, but I discounted it, as I would never expect to find such in a box of radio parts. Still, my own curiosity now peaked, I walked over, bent down, and picked up the item for myself. Yes, I thought, as I carefully turned it over in my hands, it really is. Although the once shiny finish was now discolored with age, and caked with decades of dust, there was no mistaking the classic form; it was a "Wouff-Hong".

Beginning in 1917, stories by an anonymous writer using the pseudonym "The Old Man", or "T.O.M." began to appear in the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) monthly publication QST. Titled the "Rotten Radio" series, they harshly assailed and exposed the poor operating practices of the day with caustic satire and humor. It was in one of these stories, entitled "Rotten QRM", that T.O.M. blasted the gibberish he'd overheard in one particular QSO, citing as an example the words "wouff hong", which apparently was either a concocted abbreviation, or someone's poor attempt at sending.

At the time of the articles T.O.M. did not know what a Wouff-Hong was, but he later adopted it as a disciplinary object with which to both flail bad operating practices and inflict punishment on the

perpetrators. It is said that in the following era he had, tongue in cheek, proposed its use as an instrument of torture and discipline, to maintain decency and order in the ham radio community.

It was early in the year 1919 that T.O.M. contributed an article to QST called "Rotten Starting", criticizing the slow progress of the United States government to allow hams to operate again after World War I. It finished with "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff-Hong which came to light when we started to get our junk out of cold storage. Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay your hands on it quickly in an emergency. We will soon be allowed to transmit, and then you will need it." Accompanying this article was a misshapen, wooden, wire-bound two-pronged tuning fork-like object. Yes, the Wouff-Hong.

It was in the July 1919 issue of QST that the portrait of the Wouff-Hong first appeared. At each meeting of the Leagues Board, the Wouff-Hong stood on display, to the humbled looks of the Directors."

Hiram Percy Maxim 1917

Only after his death, was it was revealed to all that T.O.M. had actually been Hiram Percy Maxim, the founder and first President of the ARRL. It is said that he took the secret of the origin of the first Wouff-Hong to his grave.

And here, in my hands, was a Wouff-Hong, long considered amateur radios most sacred symbol of law and order. Cast into its base were the words "ARRL National Convention Chicago, IL Sept 3 4 5 1938". I was holding an artifact from the Golden Age of Radio, made some 61 years ago. I found myself thinking back, wondering about the person that had brought this back from the Convention, now some six decades into the past.

What were the concerns and thoughts of this fellow radio amateur a few short years after the Great Depression? Would he even recognize the hobby today, and what would he think about radio signals now being passed through satellites, computers, and even the Internet? Had radio fulfilled its once bright promise?

Would he find today's amateur holding to the high principles of the past? I had to wonder if he would be pleased by what he found, or somehow sadly disappointed? Indeed, how would T.O.M himself see things? Would his famous "Rotten Radio" articles still be written, and if so, who or what would be the targets? Had we won the technology battle, only to lose the war for the spirit of the hobby?

Startled back to reality by the crash of a carelessly dropped metal panel upon the garage floor, I again considered my find. Possibly this "Wouff-Hong" was some sort of souvenir, or perhaps an award handed out at the Convention, I still have to research the exact origin. Delighted, I paid the requested \$5 for the item, and carefully placed it with in my backpack for safe keeping until the sale was over. \$5 was indeed a cheap price for a journey back into radios past, affording me the opportunity to examine my own beliefs and hopes for the hobby.

Did this "Wouff-Hong" at one time belong to Fred VE3HC, or was it simply a museum piece carelessly discarded into one of the boxes, discarded and forgotten by a generation that often pays little tribute to past? That question has yet to be answered, but to me, the origin of the piece is not as important as the

meaning attached to it, the rich, proud legacy of a magical hobby and the remembrance of a friend.

Bruce W1UJR (ex KG2IC)



- Officers and Board
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***See our Web Page or contact us
for more information on***

- WARAC Memorial Scholarships
- Wisconsin QSO Party
- Midwinter Swapfest
- Worked all Wisconsin Counties Award
- Amateur Radio Classes

WARAC holds meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM at:

**St Peter's Episcopal Church
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue
West Allis, WI**

Entry is off the alley at the rear of the church.
A wheel chair ramp and chair-lift are available.